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This month, Presman Mastermelt exhibited at the #MakeYourMarkLondon event, hosted by The Goldsmiths' Company Assay Office. The event was a chance for full-time and part-time students in the jewellery industry to get advice and first-hand knowledge from experts within the industry.

Stephen Goldsmith, a guru of precious metal polishing and someone who has been in the metal polishing business for over forty years was another of the exhibitors at the event. We got the chance to speak to Stephen all about the art of polishing and precious metal reclamation, here's what he had to say! Stephen graduated from his class at the Rochester College of Art in Kent in 1971, and then subsequently completed his four-year apprenticeship in polishing with CJ Vander Silversmiths in the Hatton Garden area of London. The early years of his career were spent polishing and honing his craft to ultimate perfection as Stephen first worked for silversmiths Stuart Devlin and then moved onto Nayler Brothers, which acted as the main workshop for Garrard's Crown Jewellers. As Stephen's craft has developed he has worked for and with many famous faces and on numerous prestigious projects, including restoration of Victorian masterpieces which are displayed in the Tower of London as well as training Army Officer's Mess 'Silvermen' butlers plus being asked advice from the Royal Mint and Royal Society. Stephen currently works a freelance polisher, notably for celebrity jewellery designer Theo Fennell amongst others. Stephen has also found himself being the creative and knowledgeable hub of everything that relates to the craft of polishing precious metals.



## You have reached a milestone – over forty years in the business! What is the best part of the job?

The absolute, complete finished product. I do a lot of work for a famous jewellery designer and what they produce is what I would call ultimate works of Art. When I first started in the business, 43 years ago, I began shining cutlery and that was it but it is a completely different profession now. It's more refined now. What I would consider to be my favourite pieces to work on would be more sculptural work. I worked on an 18-carat gold, angel of Kate Moss and there was also a gold face of Marlon Brando that I polished. There was also a diamond necklace for a leading jewellery retailer who said I was the only polisher who could polish it to the required standard! I also work on numerous sports trophies such as the Premier League trophy and pieces for the Royal Family, still, which is also another particular highlight of mine.

## What methods do you undertake to collect precious metal waste from your workshop?

There are a number of techniques and methods I use, firstly, the washing of hands where the metal gets collected via drain where it collects in a sediment tank. I use an ultrasonic machine on pieces that I work on that collects waste material and I also use an extractor while sweeping and collecting and putting the dust in a bin where the bags get collected. Polishers get the most waste, generally due to the nature of the work that they do. As I teach a lot, I teach my students about metal reclamation and also I went to the Royal Mint and explained to them about reclamation and I recommend Mastermelt for that. For anything I'm not sure about when it comes to reclamation, I go to Leigh [Stutman – part of the reclamation team at Mastermelt] and she gives me all the information I need.

## How important a practice do you believe metal reclamation to be?

I believe the reclamation of metal is 100% important. After the completed job of whatever you're doing whether that is polishing or some other task, I believe it's the most important thing for you to do. The money you make can pay for all sorts such as staff nights out or extra staff if needed. There is a lot of money to be made through the process. Get in touch with Stephen by visiting his website, or following him on social media via the links below, and for advice on precious metal reclamation, contact the Presman Mastermelt team now using this [contact form](#). Website: <http://www.goldpolishing.co.uk/>